



Winter Weather Info

Remain Ready for Emergencies

Winter weather can cause power outages, impede mobility and cause emergency conditions. Here are some ideas from the Emergency Management Office on how to prepare for winter emergencies.

Visit the [Emergency Management Office Web page](#) on the city website for winter weather preparation ideas. Information: 703-385-7846 (regular office hours).

Dealing with Snow, Ice Removal

The city is among the few local jurisdictions to plow its own roads. Public Works Department crews work around the clock to make city streets passable during a snowstorm.

When snow is predicted, park vehicles in driveways and off the street when possible to make plowing quicker and easier.

Please clean snow from driveways and sidewalks in front of your properties.

If the snow is deep enough, plows may push snow into cleared driveway bays — unfortunate, unavoidable and unintentional. Here are some shoveling tips:

- When shoveling driveways, continue to remove snow for a few feet past the curb or driveway, into the street.
- Pile snow to the left of the driveway (facing the driveway from the street), a few feet from the curb or edge of the property. *Remember: do not pile snow in the street.*
- When shoveling, remove snow from an area to the right of the driveway. Make it a few feet long and a few feet wide. Snow plows will have less snow to carry past your driveway — and the plow can drop the snow it's already carrying.
- Please remove snow from around fire hydrants so the fire department can find them when needed.

Prepare for Power Outages

Keep electronic communication devices fully charged during an emergency.

Emergency Preparedness Kit Checklist

- ☐ water (one gallon per person and pet per day)
- ☐ non-perishable food for 3-5 days, manual can opener, disposable plates and utensils
- ☐ non-electric items (radio, flashlight, etc.)
- ☐ first aid supplies
- ☐ trash bags
- ☐ disinfectant/bleach
- ☐ duct tape
- ☐ cash/traveler's checks
- ☐ clothing (one or two complete clothing changes)
- ☐ bedding
- ☐ tools (including extra batteries, matches, power cords for devices such as smartphones)
- ☐ toiletry items, including prescription drugs
- ☐ special needs items for elderly, ill, children
- ☐ Pet supplies (food and water for three days, medicine if needed, first aid kit, litter box or sealable plastic bag and sanitizing supplies for waste; familiar items and toys, carrier or crate, spare leash/collar/ID tags)
- ☐ important documents
- ☐ entertainment (books, games)

Keep ready in case utilities are down or evacuation is needed.

Keep non-electric tools handy in case of power failure, including flashlights, manual can openers and battery-powered radios.

Those in buildings with elevators and electric doors should know the building management emergency phone numbers and be familiar with emergency exit routes.

When using generators, keep them outside the buildings for safety purposes. Be mindful of the noise generators cause and consider turning them off at night, if possible. (Cold/frozen items will remain safe for hours in a closed refrigerator.)

Those under doctors' care should check with their physicians for medical procedures and services that might be affected by a power outage.

Find Reliable Service Providers Now

Make provisions for services you may need before the situation arises. Make arrangements before you need to for such services as snow removal, home repairs, tree limb removal, transportation and more.

Contact service providers recommended by family, friends and neighbors to arrange service in case of emergency.

Use Multiple Resources for Information, Communication

Identify multiple ways to reach friends and family in case of emergency (telephone, text, social media) in case some resources are not available.

Choose weather-related news and information sources, such as the National Weather Service or news radio stations, to check information and remain informed.

Check on Your Neighbors

Be a good neighbor: check on those around you and give them a hand when you can. Pay special attention to neighbors who are elderly or those with disabilities.

Utility Issue Contacts

- Water main breaks: Fairfax Water (www.fairfaxwater.org, 703-698-5613, watermainbreak@fairfaxwater.org).
- Electricity outage: Dominion Virginia Power (www.dom.com; 888-667-3000).

Information Resources

City website

www.fairfaxva.gov

24-hour access, updates

Cityscreen-12

Channel 12 on cable television and city website

24-hour access, updates

Fairfax City Alert message system

messages sent to subscribers via e-mail, pager, text and phone

24-hour access, updates

City newsline

703-273-1776

recorded information

24-hour access, updates

General Information

703-385-7855 (TTY: 7-1-1)

regular business hours